

Claims:

1. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:
a tube having an outer surface; and,
a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a porous
5 material wherein the pore size of the filter is about $3\ \mu\text{m}$.

2. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the porous material is expanded
polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE).

10 3. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the porous material is a hydrophobic material.

4. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the vent has a surface area ranging from about
 $0.8\ \text{cm}^2$ to about $5.0\ \text{cm}^2$.

15 5. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the filter is flush with the outer surface of the tube.

6. The drip chamber of claim 5 wherein the vent is integral with the outer surface of the tube.

7. The drip chamber of claim 1 wherein the tube is rigid.

20 8. A drip chamber in a cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) drainage system comprising:
a tube having an outer surface; and,
a vent in fluid communication with the tube, the vent having a filter made of a porous
material, the pore size of the filter ranging from greater than $.45\ \mu\text{m}$ to about $5.0\ \mu\text{m}$, the filter
25 being flush with the outer surface of the tube.

9. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the vent is integral with the outer surface of the
tube.

30 10. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the porous material is expanded
polytetrafluoroethylene (e-PTFE).

11. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the porous material is a hydrophobic material.
12. The drip chamber of claim 8 wherein the pore size of the filter is about 3 μm .